

1 Francisco Fort and Plaza, 306 S. Main St. 1862
National Register of Historic Places 1986



The Fort was built from hand-made adobies and is preserved today as the Francisco Fort Museum along with several historic buildings moved to this site. In the Main Street courtyard of the Fort is a statue of Doris Bristol Tracy, a WWII Service Pilot, whose family once owned "The Big Store on the Corner" (see #3). [I.S.]

2 The Lamme Hospital, 314 S. Main St. 1909



National Register of Historic Places 1993
E.R. Coleman built this 2 1/2 story structure, the largest of La Veta's native sandstone residences. It served as a hospital and doctors' offices from 1911 until 1942. [I.S.]

3 "The Big Store on the Corner", 300 S. Main St. 1911



The Coleman Brothers built this store for Edwin L. Smith, a longtime La Veta merchant. This dry goods store was the largest in town and carried a great variety of wares. It changed hands several times between 1920 and 1945 when it was sold to the Bristol family. [I.S.]

4 Old Town Hall and Firehouse, 115 W. Francisco St. 1912



The Old Town Hall was built by W.H. Adamson, a local contractor, and housed the records, administration, polling place, fire hose, and jail. A room was opened on Sundays so residents could read the newspapers and use the lending library. When the Town Hall moved to a new location in 1951, it operated as a fire house until 1984. Today, it is part of the Francisco Fort Museum.

5 Presbyterian Church, 127 W. Francisco St. 1891



Dedicated in 1892, this church served its members until 1974 when the Presbytery deeded it to the Town of La Veta to become part of Francisco Fort Museum. It now houses local theater productions. [I.S.]

6 La Veta State Bank, 222 S. Main St. 1902



The current owner, Eric Bachman Realty, has preserved E.R. Coleman and William "Dad" Fey's stone building, including the original bank vault and pressed metal ceiling. Mr. Bachman welcomes visitors to check out these features, as well as old photos hung on the office wall. [I.S.]

7 Masonic Hall, 210 S. Main St. 1889
Colorado Register of Historic Properties 2000



John Manos

This two-part block structure is a typical 19th century type, built with commercial space at street level and a residence above (see #10 and #11). Consistent with this historic form, the current owners reside on the second floor and lease the main floor as gallery space. Please check out the gallery's wooden, geometric pattern ceiling, which was common in the 1920s, and an exposed lintel over the door on the south wall. [I.S.]

8 W.H. Woodruff Store, 208 S. Main St. 1904



John Manos

The facade of this building has been covered with stone, but the top features the original pressed metal cornice with a fleur de lis pattern. It was built by William "Dad" Fey for W.H. Woodruff, post master from 1891-1912. Fey used the north wall of the Masonic building as the south wall of this building.

9 La Veta Railroad Depot, 111 Moore Ave. 1879



The arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1878 changed La Veta from a ranching to a railroad town. Today the restored depot serves as the La Veta Town Hall. [I.S.]

10 The Odd Fellows Hall, 127 W. Ryus Ave. 1909



John Manos

Coleman built this two-story building for Pelgrino Galassini. As wide as a single 25' lot and 58' deep, it is made of cut stone thought to have been quarried on Pirion Hill just north of town. Galassini leased it to several saloon operators until La Veta went dry in 1914. Galassini sold it to the Odd Fellows, who used it as their meeting hall until 1984. Today, it houses The Parkside where local events are held.

11 J.P. Stranger Building, 129 W. Ryus Ave. 1904



Avenue Bakery since 1999.

John P. Stranger and his wife Caroline moved separately to La Veta in the 1880's and married in 1890. E.R. Coleman and William "Dad" Fey built this grocery and dry goods store for them, placing two single 30' stones on either side of the double-doored entry. Stranger and his wife had moved to La Veta during a boom period when the D&RG was replacing its old narrow gauge rail with standard gauge. It has housed The Ryus

12 Goemmer Barn, corner of W. Field and S. Oak St. 1895



This was E. R. Coleman's first La Veta project. Built for John Goemmer who had arrived in 1882, the ground floor was used for stabling horses and stud service, the upstairs housed farm equipment. According to local legend, Goemmer once shod Jesse James' horse. However, since James was murdered five months before Goemmer's arrival in La Veta, he could not have done it here.

13 Peter Verliff Residence, 118 W. Garland St. 1902



This stone cottage is considered one of the Coleman Brothers' finest buildings featuring an Ashlar pattern (square cut stones), dark-colored stone corner quoins, hipped roof and a unique stone bay window. It was built for Peter Verliff, a longtime resident and avid prospector who arrived in the 1890s. Local legend says that Verliff sold it to a man with a "sketchy career" who reportedly had killed a man in Walsenburg and subsequently got his ear shot off in later life.

14 Peter Verliff Building, 116 W. Garland St. 1909



This residence was built seven years after the one next door at 118 West Garland. Why Verliff had two houses built is unknown. While both houses are built by the Coleman Brothers from local sandstone, the architecture, roof styles and entrances are different. What differences and similarities can you discover?

15 La Veta High School, 110 E. Garland St. 1911



As you walk along E. Garland to the high school, note La Veta's first school bell dated 1887. Coleman built the high school using locally quarried stone from Pirion Hill and possibly another quarry east of town. The gym was added in 1937 as a W.P.A. Project. (Note: if you are interested in W.P.A. projects, the Huerfano County Maintenance Barn at 316 So. Locust St. was built in 1940.)

16 George A. Edmonstron Residence, 112 W. Virginia St. 1910



This home features three Greek Revival column portals, a shallow bay window, and a pitched gable roof. Coleman built this for George A. Edmonstron, who arrived in La Veta in 1908 and ran the grocery store in the Stranger Building (see #11). E. R. Coleman's daughter-in-law, Pansy, lived in this home until her death in 1993.

17 Edwin L. Smith Residence, 420 S. Main St. 1905



The Coleman Brothers built this home for merchant Edwin L. Smith (see #3). It originally contained four rooms, a pantry, bathroom, and closets, which were rare in those days. Smith sold his home in 1919. The new owner lived in it for about 10 years before he sold it in 1928 to the Methodist-Episcopalian Church (now United Methodist Church) and it has served as the Methodist Parsonage ever since.

18 Mrs. Henry Daigre Residence, 113 E. Field St. 1914



Coleman built this home with its unique roof type for Mrs. Henry Daigre, John Francisco's business partner, helped establish the Fort in 1862. Later, he turned to raising sheep, twice served as mayor, and was the first master of the Masonic Lodge (see #7).

19 U.S. Forest Service, 103 E. Field St. 1935



Built by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), this Pueblo Revival style U.S. Forestry Service Ranger District Office is important because of its association with the development and administration of San Isabel National Forest. It is the only known remaining USFS-built and owned adobe administration building in Colorado. [I.S.]

20 Turner Building, 205 S. Main St. 1910



Originally a typical 1910 La Veta storefront, this much altered building now houses the North By Southwest shop. [I.S.]

21 Micheletti Building, 203 S. Main St. 1913



Coleman built this for Guisepppe "Joe" Micheletti who opened the Star Bar and a restaurant. Micheletti was a supporter of the United Mine Workers movement. In 1913-14, coal miners in southern Colorado went on strike for better working conditions. When the strike turned violent, three Pinkerton Guards were killed west of La Veta, and 24 men, women and children perished in a tent colony north of Trinidad. This event became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

22 Old Garren. 102 First St. 1913



(Note: This beautiful stone residence is located about 1/10th of a mile from the Micheletti Building.) Coleman built this residence for David Firm, a native of Scotland, who helped develop a number of coal mines in the county before turning to raising stock.